

Release Findings

Mine Name: Cotton Thomas Quarry
Operator: Star Stone Quarries, Inc.

I.D. No.: M0030024
Mineral Ownership: Fee/BLM
Surface Ownership: Fee

Disturbed Area: 66.3 acre
Acres Proposed for Release: 2.99 acres

Surety

Amount: \$123,230.00 Letter of Credit from Key Bank.
Amount eligible for release: \$3,530.00

Setting and Premining Environment

This site is located on the eastern side of the Cotton Thomas Basin in Northwestern Box Elder County. Elevation of these sites is above 8,000 feet. It is located within open grass/shrub communities with scattered small stands of fir and aspen. Annual precipitation is greater than 15 inches per year. Surrounding vegetation consists mostly of short grasses (fescues) and snowberry. Ground cover ranges from 50 to 75%. This project was started and in the mid 1993. Reclamation of the three areas being considered for release was completed in 2003.

Operations

Three small pits are being considered for release, the East Granite (2.12 acres), the West Granite (0.47 acres) and the South Granite (0.4 acres). These quarries produced a granitic gneiss material. There were no facilities located at these sites.

Reclamation

There were no facilities/structures associated with these pits. Reclamation consisted of regrading the quarry to eliminate highwalls and dump slopes greater than 3h:1v slope, replacing topsoil and seeding.

Hydrology

There were no drainages within these areas. During post reclamation inspections, the areas were found to be stable with no erosion problems noted.

Revegetation

Postmining landuse: Limited Grazing and wildlife habitat has been re-established with the establishment of vegetation. Species include those that provide quality forage for wildlife.

Revegetation: The area was broadcast seeded with a mix designed to provide forage species for grazing and wildlife. The premining vegetation ground cover ranged from 50 % to 75% . During an inspection on August 8, 2006 vegetation ground cover of each reclaimed area (ranging from 40% to 65%) exceeded the 70% reclamation success standard of the surrounding vegetation at each site (ranging from 35% to 50%).

Recommendation

Vegetation has been successfully re-established on the East Granite, the South Granite and the West Granite pits. These areas are stable and visually blend in with the surrounding area. It is recommended that these sites be released as requested. The request to release these areas did not include a request to reduce the bond amount.

Lynn Kunzler, Senior Reclamation Specialist
Name/Title

November 2, 2006
Date

LK:pb

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